

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

- AGAINST -)

ARAKI, SADA0, et al)

A F F I D A V I T

I, KASAGI, Ryomei, make oath and say as follows:

I was born in 1892 in Tochigi-Ken Prefecture, Ashio. After attending elementary and middle schools, I entered the Imperial University, from which I graduated in 1919.

Shortly after graduating, I entered the employ of the Manchurian Iron Works, and was assigned to their branch in the Marunouchi Building in Tokyo in the Finance Investigation office. I was employed in this capacity from 1919 to 1929. My superior officers in charge of the department in which I worked were Dr. OKAWA, Shumei, and NAGAO, head of the office.

Dr. OKAWA organized the Gyo Chi Sha in about 1923, and was the leader of this organization of which I became a member. Because I disagreed with some of its principles, I resigned in 1928, but the organization was still in existence when I left Tokyo in 1929.

The Gyo Chi Sha was a nationalistic organization that was organized to study and try to improve the relationship between Japan and the other countries in Asia and to reform the government in Japan, also to promote the idea that Japan was destined to be the leader of East Asia, and that the members should do all that they could to foster and develop the advancement of Japan's prestige and influence.

Dr. OKAWA made some speeches before this organization advocating these principles, and on one occasion at least, stated that Japan should help India obtain its independence.

One of the most influential members of the organization was Professor KANOKOGI, Kazunobu.

Since I desired a promotion and wanted to leave Tokyo, I was sent to Daricn, Manchuria, to work for the South Manchuria Railway Company, which was one of the principal owners of the Manchurian Iron Works. My work in Daricn, however, was largely with the South Manchuria Railway where I was in charge of Personnel which dealt with the employment, welfare and pension provisions for the entire railway system.

In May 1930, I organized and was head of the Yu Ho Kai, which was an organization composed of about thirty to forty Japanese members, largely men who were employed by the South Manchuria Railway Company. One exception was NAKANO, Koitsu, a Japanese lawyer who then had offices in Daricn and Mukden.

Immediately after September 18, 1931, when the Manchurian Incident began, NAKANO, Koitsu was directed by the political division of the Kwantung Army to join the Self-Government Guiding Board which was organized in the latter part of September to foster, coordinate and direct the activities of various groups urging the independence of Liaoning Province, and later on, all the provinces of Manchuria and Jehol, to declare their

independence from China. The principal object of this organization was to aid in developing and directing this Independence Movement. The head of the organization was Yu Chung-Han, a Chinese. There were several other Chinese in the organization, but 90 per cent of the members and all those in the most responsible positions were Japanese.

About the middle of October NAKANO, Koitsu called me at Dairien and asked me to come to Mukden and work with him in the Self-Government Guiding Board. I spoke to the members of our organization, and about twenty of them went to Mukden to assist in this work. When I arrived in Mukden I found the complete organization already set up, and I was appointed chief liaison man at the headquarters in Mukden. We were working in thirteen or fourteen prefectures of Liaoning or Fengtian Province at first, and I was responsible for eight of them. We had two or three representatives working in each prefecture, most of whom were Japanese, and I maintained contact with them and directed their efforts. I talked to the Prefectural Governors and government workers outlining to them the conditions in other prefectures and showing them how much better it would be for the country if they were to have a stable, organized government that would work to promote the interests of the people, and that in order to do this it was necessary for them to seek independence from China. There was no definite plan at first as to the form this independence should take, but later on, it was decided to form a separate state with a Regent or Emperor at the head.

At the time I left the South Manchuria Railway I borrowed five hundred yen from a loan association operated by the company to finance me in my work, particularly in renting a house in which to have the workers of the Self-Government Guiding Board live. In November of 1931 I received about twenty-thousand yen from the South Manchuria Railway, representing money coming to me based upon my years of service, and I then paid back the loan.

There were eight principal departments or divisions in the Self-Government Guiding Board as follows:

1. Advisory, having both Chinese and Japanese members.
2. General Affairs, controlled entirely by the Japanese.
3. Guidance.
4. Censorship.
5. Liaison.
6. Propaganda.
7. Training and Education.
8. Finance.

There were approximately one-hundred and twenty members on the committee, about twenty from the Yu Wo Kai and the balance from the Manchu Seinen Renmei (Manchu Young Men's Association). Out of the members, approximately fifteen were Chinese or Manchurian.

I believe the money to support this organization came from the Kwantung Army, as we operated in close cooperation with it, and all of our policies and activities had to be approved by it. Colonel ITAGAKI, Seishiro was in charge of this division. Colonel ISHIMURA, Kanji, was in charge of Tactics and Strategy and Colonel DOIHARA, Kenji, was in charge of Special Services or Espionage Division in Mukden. Much of the information we received as to which Chinese would be friendly to our plans came from Colonel DOIHARA's Division.

Early in January, 1932, the Self-Government Guiding Board issued a proclamation stating that the North Eastern Provinces were faced with the need for developing at once a great popular movement for the establishment of a new independent state in Manchuria and Mongolia, and it appealed to the people of these provinces to overthrow Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, to join the Self-Government Guiding Association and to cooperate in setting up a new administration to improve the living conditions of the people.

On February 18, 1932, a Declaration of Independence was published, declaring that the relations with the Kuomintang and the government at Nanking had been severed by the North Eastern Provinces, to wit: Fengtian, Heilungkiang, Kirin and Jehol; that a new state should be established. The Self-Government Guiding Board played an important part in organizing Independence Movements in various provinces, which resulted in the setting up of a new state which was called Manchukuo, and Henry Pu-Yi was installed as Regent on March 9, 1932.

Shortly after this action, the Self Government Guiding Board was abolished, and I went to Changchun with SAKATA, Shuichi to help establish the Shi Sei Kyoku, which was a branch of the new government under the direction of the Home Minister and had to do with the cultural, spiritual and educational development of the new government.

After three or four months this department was abolished, and the government worked through the Kyowa Kai, or Concordia Societies, which carried on the work of developing a nationalist spirit among the Manchurians.

After leaving Changchun I returned to Darlen where I stayed for nearly a year, and the Kwantung Army became displeased with my activities and I was forced to leave Darlen and come to Tokyo. Here I established a printing house and published a magazine known as Daiasia or Greater Asia. I continued in this work until May 1945 and am now unemployed.

/s/ KASAGI, Ryomei
KASAGI, Ryomei

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned Officer by the above-named KASAGI, Ryomei, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 10th day of June, 1946.

/s/ Alva C. Carpenter
Col. J.A.G.D.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, CURTIS, John A., HEREBY CERTIFY That I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named KASAGI, Ryomei in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said KASAGI, Ryomei stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said KASAGI, Ryomei was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 10th day of June, 1945, at Tokyo, Japan

/s/ John A. Curtis
CURTIS, John